



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of
Health and Social Services

STATEWIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL

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November 12, 2013

Dear Alaskans,

The Alaska Statewide Suicide Prevention Council in coordination with the Division of Behavioral Health, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is sponsoring a two-day summit entitled "**Alaska Suicide Prevention Summit III: Tending the Net**" in Anchorage on January 9-10th, 2014.

The purpose of the two-day summit is to convene a broad variety of Alaskans representing regions and communities throughout the state in order to **connect, communicate and collaborate** on the Alaska Suicide Prevention Plan 2012-2017 and expand on the Regional Action Plans created at the 2012 summit. The title of the five-year plan is **Casting the Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide in Alaska**.

You are receiving this invitation based on our knowledge that you and your representative agency is either currently involved in suicide prevention or plan to be very soon. Regional workgroups are invited to include 8-12 members representing six regions: 1) Southeast 2) Gulf Coast 3) Southwest 4) Anchorage/Matsu 5) Interior 6) Northern. Members of regional teams and/or participants of the 2012 suicide prevention summit are highly encouraged to apply for the 2014 summit. **If interested, please submit a completed application by noon on Monday, Dec. 2.**

Workgroups interested in attending will be eligible for limited travel/lodging scholarships. However, workgroups applying for scholarships will be required to meet the selection criteria based upon: 1) Team composition 2) Regional distribution, and 3) Financial need. There is no cost or fee to register or attend the summit.

Note: *Members of the group that are in a position to utilize grant or other suicide prevention funding sources to attend is highly encouraged due to the limited amount of funding available for travel scholarships. Individuals may apply and will be added to their regional team if applicable.*

Examples of regional workgroup members include:

- Law enforcement or emergency responder
- School representatives
- Primary care, public health nurse, behavioral health aide
- Local suicide prevention coalition member
- Clergy member
- Mental health services, administrator, substance abuse counselor
- Suicide prevention grant coordinator
- Youth leaders
- Survivor of suicide loss

If interested in assembling a workgroup to participate in the summit, please see the application enclosed/attached.

We are excited about this opportunity and the continued coordination between state, regional and community agencies and individuals to bring us together to continue work to reduce and prevent suicide in Alaska.

For more information, please feel free to give Eric Morrison at call at (907) 465-6518, or email eric.morrison@alaaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Morrison

SSPC Staff